

Christmas treats and other feats

By Laird Darren Gallagher

*You know, this is a viciously fun cycle! In the last four years, I've done over 50 assignments for dfm. From Sydney to Perth, from Melbourne to Brisbane, I have travelled far and wide to make sure that if someone is doing it, we are aware of it. I've tackled Rugby, Music, Fishing, Martial Arts, Golf, Cadets, Doll Making, Frog Wrangling, Car collectors and Horse lovers to name a few. I've even role played, gained nobility and brandished a sword in medieval melee! What have I learned in this time? **That smiles are free.***

ADF Car and Bike Show 09

It's back again! For those that missed out last year, don't be caught short this time round. For more information email our Larrikin Laird and he'll fill in all the holes. For an extra taste of what's to come, check out the On-line Extras where we take a look at Stephen Cole's crackingly good Valiant Charger!

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You could treat this blurb as an advertisement because essentially, that's what it's here to do. It's here to tell you that the smiles are available. They are all around you. I took a look over some of my previous submissions to remind myself of the adventures had, and it dawned on me that there are so many cool things available to Defence families that many of us don't take the time to exploit. There are tennis courts, museums, swimming pools, gyms, golf courses, fishing gear, sporting and camping equipment all ready and waiting at most of our establishments for families to come and use them. We have pool tables and BBQs, just waiting for someone to say "why don't we...?"

Each year, providing a multitude of entertainment - and, best of all, free smiles - we have the Defence Christmas Treats that run around the country. We took a look at the Sydney Region Christmas treat in Autumn 2008 edition (which you can check out on-line, see inside cover

for details), and while I still hold a firm grudge against the seven year old boy that bested me in our Dodgem Car duel, heck, I still had fun and smiled humbly as he gave me that victorious 'you lose fatso' smile and high fived his dad before heading off for a Döner Kebab. Many bases and establishments will have events or activities throughout the year for the benefit of members and their families. So this year, keep an eye out for what's on in your region, such as the Christmas Treat for Sydney families, and don't be afraid to get involved or come along. While you're waiting for events to come around, ask your local welfare committee just how many under utilised toys there are for you and your family to play with. Who knows, some of those free smiles might be waiting for you too.

*Yours in Adventures and Smiles,
Laird D.*

**Editor's Note: Each establishment has their own policy on accessing stores and facilities. Please check your local establishment guidelines.*





DEFENCE

Christmas treat

SYDNEY
REGION

RAAF RICHMOND November 2009

Fri 27 from 15:00 - 21:00 and Sat 28 from 09:00 - 21:00

Open to all Australian Defence Force (ADF) Personnel, ADF Cadets, Department of Defence Employees, Defence Contractors and Defence Civilians, and their families.

Basically, if you can get a ticket, come along for a full-on-day of fun.

For more information: simeon.prucha@defence.gov.au

- 1812 Overture performed by the Australian Army Band (Sydney) with fireworks & cannons.
- Circus shows & more unlimited rides than before.
- Flying displays and various stalls.






RAAF RICHMOND is located between the towns of Windsor and Richmond on the fringe of metropolitan Sydney, 50 km north-west of the Sydney CBD